

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended) A graft copolymer having a number average molecular weight of at least 10 000 comprising:

- (a) backbone units derived from an ethylenically unsaturated monomer,
- (b) hydrophilic uncharged side chains, which are polyethylene oxide chains comprising at least 10 polyethylene oxide units and
- (c) cationically chargeable or charged side chains containing a tertiary or quaternary nitrogen atom.

2 (Original) A graft copolymer as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the backbone units (a) are units derived from an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylate.

3 (Original) A graft copolymer as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the backbone units (a) are methacrylate units.

4 (Cancelled)

5 (Cancelled)

6 (Cancelled)

7 (Currently Amended) A graft copolymer as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the polyethylene oxide chains comprise ~~at least 10, preferably at least 30,~~ polyethylene oxide units.

8 (Original) A graft copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the units (c) are units of an ethylenically unsaturated monomer containing an aliphatic or aromatic moiety which contains a tertiary or quaternary nitrogen atom.

9 (Original) A graft copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the units (c) are units of a tertiary amine acrylate or methacrylate which may optionally be wholly or partially quaternised.

10 (Original) A graft copolymer as claimed in claim 9, wherein the units (c) are units of 2-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate (DMAEMA) which may optionally be wholly or partially quaternised.

11 (Original) A graft copolymer as claimed in claim 1, which comprises:
(a) backbone units of methacrylate,
(b) polyethylene oxide side chains, and
(c) side chains of dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate (DMAEMA) which may optionally be wholly or partially quaternised.

12 (Original) A graft copolymer as claimed in claim 11, which comprises from 70 to 99 mole%, in total, of the units (a) and (b), and from 1 to 30 mole% of the units (c).

13 (Original) A graft copolymer as claimed in claim 1, having a a number average molecular weight of at least 10 000, preferably from 50 000 to 1 000 000, more preferably from 100 000 to 500 000, and a weight average molecular weight of at least 20 000, preferably from 100 000 to 2 000 000, more preferably from 200 000 to 1 000 000.

14 (Original) A process for the preparation of a graft polymer as claimed in claim 1, which comprises reacting

- (i) a copolymer having backbone units derived from an ethylenically unsaturated monomer and hydrophilic uncharged side chains with
- (ii) a monomer containing cationically chargeable or charged side chains containing a tertiary or quaternary nitrogen atom, in the presence of a free radical initiator.

15 (Original) A process as claimed in claim 14, which comprises reacting polyethylene glycol methyl ether methacrylate (PEGMA) with a tertiary amine acrylate or methacrylate which may optionally be wholly or partially quaternised.

16 (Original) A process as claimed in claim 14, which comprises reacting PEGMA with 2-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate (DMAEMA), optionally in wholly or partly quaternised form.

17 (Original) A laundry detergent composition comprising an organic detergent surfactant, and a graft copolymer as claimed in claim 1 in an amount effective to improve soil release.

18 (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 17, which contains from 0.1 to 10 wt%, preferably from 0.25 to 5 wt%, of the graft copolymer.

19 (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 17 which comprises:

- (a) from 5 to 60 wt%, preferably from 10 to 40 wt%, of organic detergent surfactant,
- (b) optionally from 5 to 80 wt%, preferably from 10 to 60 wt%, of detergency builder,
- (c) from 0.1 to 10 wt%, preferably from 0.25 to 5 wt%, of the graft copolymer, and
- (d) optionally other detergent ingredients to 100 wt%.

20 (Original) A method of promoting soil release during laundering of a textile fabric, characterised in that the method comprises contacting the fabric with a graft copolymer as claimed in claim 1, and subsequently washing the fabric after wear or use of the fabric.

21 (Cancelled)